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on the maps of the United States Geological Survey; blue for water, brown for relief and black for culture.

Most interesting is the geographic gossip: how hard John Harrison found it (p. 43) to get the prize for his successful chronometer till the king took a hand; how it was Newton who really designed the first reflecting instrument (p. 18); how the five mile base on Hounslow Heath was measured with wooden rods in 1783 and again in 1791 with steel tapes, the results agreeing within three inches; that the concept of a spherical earth was probably Chaldaean or Egyptian.

One sees that Mr. Reeves has made ingenious modifications of a number of survey instruments. His man's head drawn upon the world net of various projections to illustrate the distortion due to each is a useful idea. The book is not suited for instruction but geography teachers will find it enjoyable and of use. MARK JEFFERSON.

POLAR

The North Pole. Its Discovery in 1909. Under the Auspices of the Peary Arctic Club. By Robert E. Peary. With an Introduction by Theodore Roosevelt, and a Foreword by Gilbert H. Grosvenor. xxxii and 373 pp., map, illustrations, appendices and index. Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York, 1910. $4.80.

The best book Peary has written and in some respects the best that has been published on the Arctic. Not a small part of the volume is a compact expression of the quintessence of a quarter of a century's experience—the outcome of many years of study, planning, experiment and toil. No one could have written the book if he had lacked Peary's preparation for it. The work is therefore unique, both as a contribution to Arctic literature and also as the history of the first conquest of the North Pole by the man who made it.

The volume is worth the closest study of every man outfitting for Polar exploration. It would be foolish for any one to attempt to sail the Smith Sound channels without knowing all that Peary has written here about this long and dangerous stretch of navigation. Peary knew every foot of the Ellesmere Land and Grant Land coasts, all the indentations, the possible shelter for ships, every place where icebergs usually ground and the regions where the tide runs strongest. The reading of many of these pages brings the constantly recurring thought that a large part of Peary's active life was a preparation for the writing of the book.

The explorer says that the meeting place of the tides coming from Baffin Bay on the south, and from Lincoln Sea on the north, is in the neighborhood of Cape Frazer. This Cape, by the way, well-known in Smith Sound annals, does not appear on the map that illustrates the explorer's narrative. The map seems to have been prepared without Peary's supervision. The only new detail it could give were the explorer's routes, from Cape Columbia to and from the Pole and his soundings on the way; but the soundings are not shown and the return route from the Pole is not correctly laid down, for the map shows it as diverging all the way from the northern sledge track, with which it was, however, practically identical.

On his great sledge journey to the Pole, Peary did not use sleeping bags and in fact he has never used them since his first journey over the inland ice to the northern coast of Greenland in 1891-92, when he established the fact that Greenland is the largest island in the world. His party slept on the floor of their tents or snow huts, with a musk-ox skin under and a light deer-skin over them. The changes he made in his equipment, his use of sheep-skin clothing, (p. 131), the new type of sledge he evolved, (p. 135), his dog harness made like those of the Eskimo but of different material, (p. 136), the preliminary training of the men for the arduous tramp, (pp. 134-138) and his ingenious and original plan for the employment of pioneer relay parties, a scheme that worked perfectly and was very important in his final success, are absorbing reading and full of helpfulness to all future ice explorers.

The work has a good index, the illustrations are admirable and the publishers have done their part in making the volume a satisfying memorial of one of the great achievements of polar enterprise.

GENERAL

Geographische Forschungsreisen und ihre Ziele. Von Dr. B. Bruhns. Mit 19 Abbildungen, 55 p. Karia-Verlag Abt.: *Natur u. Kultur*, Munich, 1910.

Dr. Bruhns mentions Shackleton, Hedin, and Peary as illustrating the leading types of explorers. He classes Shackleton's work as scientific and that of Hedin as resulting in much new information, but, being the work of one man, in forced marches over a great area, not so closely studied as to have the highest value. In Peary's work, the expedition to the Pole, he sees a very strenuous effort to reach the goal without great geographical results, as earlier enterprise had practically determined that the Pole is in the midst of the sea area. The exploration of the future, he believes, will consist chiefly of parties made up of experts in the various branches of geographic knowledge, the sum total of whose results will enrich geographical science. He especially mentions Hans Meyer and his studies in vulcanism and glaciology; Shackleton, the Sarasins in their studies of the most primitive human beings, as the Wedda and Sakai, and the Duke of Mecklenburg in his African work, as conspicuously illustrating the type of explorers needed for future field work.

Geologische Charakterbilder. Herausgegeben von Dr. H. Stille. 2 Heft. Grosse erratische Blöcke im norddeutschen Flachlande. Von F. Wahnschaffe. Tafeln 1-6. M. 3.60. 3 Heft. Das Karstphänomen. Von A. Grund. Tafeln 1-6. M. 4.80. Verlag von Gebrüder Borntraeger. Berlin, 1910.

This series of Charakterbilder uses reproductions of very carefully selected photographs to illustrate the structure of mountains, typical development of geological formations, the morphology of the earth's crust and other geological phases. Each number is complete in itself and may be purchased separately. The plates in Heft 2 finely represent some of the great erratics that are distributed over Northern Germany. Heft 3 has eight illustrations of typical Karst phenomena in Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Each plate is accompanied by descriptive text and in each number is a short paper on the general topic illustrated.

O 2° Visconde de Santarem e os seus Atlas Geographicos. Por Jordao A. De Freitas, Official da Real Bibliotheca d'Ajuda. (Estudo publicado pelo actual Visconde de Santarem.) 182 pp., 1 plate and appendix. Officina Typographica, Lisboa, 1909.

The work contains a biographical sketch of the second Viscount de Santarem,